

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A process for the resolution of enantiomeric mixtures of a chiral carboxylic acid of formula  $R\text{-COOH}$ ,

wherein R is a hydrocarbon residue optionally containing one or more heteroatoms and optionally mono- or polysubstituted, comprising an esterification reaction of said carboxylic acid in an organic solvent, in the presence of a stereoselective hydrolase, and an orthoester of formula  $R^1\text{-C(OR}^2\text{)}_3$ ,

in which  $R^1$  is selected from H and  $C_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl}$  and  $R^2$  is  $C_1\text{-C}_8\text{alkyl}$  or  $\text{-CH}_2\text{-C}_6\text{-}_{10}\text{aryl}$ , ~~to determine~~ for the resolution of said enantiomeric mixture of said chiral carboxylic acid.

2. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl.

3. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein said stereoselective hydrolase is a lipase selected from *Candida antarctica*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Pseudomonas cepacia*, *Mucor miehei*, *Mucor javanicus*, *Aspergillus niger*, swine pancreas, or a protease from *Aspergillus subtilis*.

4. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said esterification reaction is carried out at a temperature of 0-50°C.

5. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising adding the reaction mixture with an amount of water or an alcohol with 1-8 carbon atoms equivalent to 1-5% mols compared with the mols of said chiral carboxylic acid.

6. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said esterification reaction the meso form of a bicarboxylic acid acts as the substrate.

7. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carboxylic acid is selected from (+)-(R,S)-2-(2-fluoro-4-biphenyl)-propionic, (+)-(R,S)-2-(3-benzoylphenyl)-propionic, (+)-(R,S)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-propionic, (+)-(R,S)-2-[4-(1-oxo-2-isoindoliny)phenyl] propionic, (+)-(R,S)-2-[4-(2-thenoyl)phenyl]-propionic, (+)-(R,S)-2-(6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)-propionic acids.

8. (withdrawn, currently amended) A method for ~~determining~~ the resolution of an enantiomeric mixture of a chiral carboxylic acid, comprising adding an orthoester of formula  $R^1-C-(OR^2)_3$ ,

in which  $R^1$  is selected from H and  $C_1-C_4$ alkyl and  $R^2$  is  $C_1-C_8$ alkyl or  $-CH_2-C_6-10$ aryl, in combination with a stereoselective hydrolase to said mixture ~~to determine~~ for the resolution of enantiomeric mixtures of said carboxylic chiral acids.

9. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said hydrolase is a lipase selected from *Candida antarctica*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Pseudomonas cepacia*, *Mucor miehei*, *Mucor javanicus*, *Aspergillus niger*, swine pancreas, or a protease from *Aspergillus subtilis*.

10. (withdrawn, currently amended) A process for the resolution of enantiomeric mixtures of a chiral carboxylic acid of formula  $R\text{-COOH}$ ,

wherein R is a hydrocarbon residue optionally containing one or more heteroatoms and optionally mono- or polysubstituted,

comprising combining an amount of water or an alcohol having 1-8 carbon atoms equivalent to 1-5% mols of said chiral carboxylic mixture to said enantiomeric mixture, said enantiomeric mixture comprising said chiral carboxylic acid, an organic solvent, and a stereoselective hydrolase, in the presence of an orthoester of formula  $R^1\text{-C(OR}^2\text{)}_3$ , wherein  $R^1$  is selected from H and  $C_1\text{-C}_4$ alkyl and  $R^2$  is  $C_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl or  $\text{-CH}_2\text{-C}_{6-10}\text{aryl}$ , ~~and determining for~~ the resolution of said enantiomeric mixture of said chiral carboxylic acid.